Survey Data Ready for Centre for Global Competency

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey is designed to capture a portrait of student characteristics of our incoming first-year (FY) class. This survey was administered early in the fall 2012 semester to students enrolled in English Composition I. There were 1,132 respondents. Of these, 998 (88 percent) were first-time, full-time college students.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is designed to capture the views of FY and senior students on the nature and quality of their undergraduate education. This survey was administered in the spring of 2012 to all FY and senior students. There were 1,149 respondents (805 senior students and 344 FY students).

Together these surveys provide a glimpse of student habits and perceptions as they enter UCO, as they finish their first year, and before they graduate.

Study Abroad Plans

Forty-one percent of entering FY students said it was very important or essential that they improve their understanding of other countries and cultures while 39 percent said it was somewhat important. One way students can achieve this goal is through study abroad. A few of students come to UCO already having done study abroad. When FY students enter UCO, about a third of them report that they plan to do a study abroad and 11 percent of SR students plan to do a study abroad before they graduate from UCO. Actually, over the past five years, only 77 UCO students did study abroad (one or two semesters) and 324 did an international study tour (two-three weeks).
Although many UCO students plan to do study abroad before graduation, few actually do it. By the time they are seniors, less than 10 percent report that they have done a study abroad.

**Could this data be relevant to your work?**

This report highlights several findings that the Office of Institutional Assessment thought might be of interest to you. The Freshman Survey Report and the NSSE data are very rich and can provide many insights into our students and their experiences at UCO. Sometimes the data is much more meaningful if the responses are disaggregated to reveal contrasts or patterns among different categories of students or over time. Please let us know if you want us to create a report for you that reflects your specific interests. If you are unsure how the data could be helpful to you, the Institutional Assessment staff will work with you to clarify the parameters of a useful report. Please call or send us an email; we welcome working with you to use the data to help us understand and improve UCO.